AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Conditional branch point 211 next tests to determine if the ranging was successful. The ranging process is declared to be not successful when no response is received by the cable modem from the alternate CMTS after it used its maximum power to transmit to the alternate CMTS. If the test result in step 211 is YES, indicating that the cable modem successfully ranged, control passes to step 213 in which the cable modem engages in the registration request procedure. Note that, in accordance with an aspect of the invention, a new configuration file is not downloaded from the alternate CMTS. Instead, in accordance with an aspect of the invention, the cable modem continues to use the configuration file that was downloaded to it via the primary CMTS.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 34 and continuing onto page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

It should be appreciated that in conventional DOCSIS-based systems the configuration file is supplied by a trivial file transfer protocol (TFTP) server coupled to the CMTS and passes through the CMTS without any information being extracted therefrom by the CMTS. Instead, the information required by the CMTS from the configuration file is then transmitted from the cable modem to the CMTS as part of a registration request message. Note that not all of the parameters that are in the configuration file are supplied in the registration request message, as those that are not supplied are required for other purposes but not for communication between the CMTS and the cable modem.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 10, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows exemplary cable modem 300 arranged in accordance with the principles of the invention. Cable modem 300 could be used as one of cable modems 109 (FIG. 1). Cable modem 300 includes receiver 301, transmitter 303 and processor 305. Receiver 301 and transmitter 303 are each tunable to different frequencies in the manner of conventional cable modem transmitters and receivers. The particular frequency to which receiver 301and transmitter 303 tune is specified by processor 305, which does specifies such frequencies in accordance with the principles of the invention. The

information received by receiver 301 from the cable is transferred to receiver 301. Similarly, the information transmitted over the cable from cable modem 300 is supplied by processor 305.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 10, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows exemplary CMTS 400 arranged in accordance with the principles of the invention. CMTS 400 could be used as one of CMTS 103 (FIG. 1). CMTS 400 includes receiver 401, transmitter 403 and processor 405. Receiver 401 and transmitter 403 are each tunable to different frequencies in the manner of conventional CMTS transmitters and receivers. The particular frequency to which receiver 401and transmitter 403 tune is specified by processor 405, which ~~does~~ specifies such frequencies in accordance with the principles of the invention. The information received by receiver 401 from the cable is transferred to receiver 401. Similarly, the information transmitted over the cable from CMTS 400 is supplied by processor 405. CMTS 400 may also be coupled to another CMTS so as to transfer thereto, or receive therefrom, initialization information regarding cable modems that are served by the other. ~~Furthermore, CMTS 400 may be coupled to~~

Please delete all of the paragraphs beginning with the one at page 11, line 12, which starts with "FIG. 3 shows exemplary cable modem" through and including the one that ends on page 12, line 19.